

# The Back/Throat Wound of President Kennedy

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*"There is evidence of a 'track' that would connect the anterior neck wound to the posterior back wound."*

To the Editor:

This letter concerns itself with the article by Professor Robert Forman in the March issue and the letter to the editor by Robert Cutler in the May issue of "People and the PURSUIT of Truth."

## Was the Neck Wound a Through-and-Through Wound?

Mr. Cutler and Dr. Forman clearly disagree on one major issue: whether the back/throat wound of President Kennedy was a through-and-through wound. Cutler believes that two bullets entered Kennedy's neck while Forman argues that only one bullet traversed Kennedy's neck.

At the time of Kennedy's death, the anterior neck wound was considered by Parkland Memorial doctors to be one of entrance for two reasons:

1. It measured between 3 and 5 millimeters in diameter.
2. The margins of the wound were round and clean cut — clearly not consistent with an exit wound, although possible.

Unfortunately this wound was not dissected at the autopsy which would have clearly shown whether it was a through-and-through wound.

## The Autopsy and X-Rays and Photos

Since that time, the autopsy X-rays and photos have been examined by two panels (Clark and Rockefeller), Dr. John K. Lattimer, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, Dr. Forrest Chapman, and Dr. James T. Weston. All of these doctors are in basic agreement as to what is shown on these X-rays and photos.

1. The wound in the anterior neck was one of exit.

"At the site of and above the tracheotomy incision in the front of the neck, there can be identified the upper half of the circumference of a circular cutaneous wound the appearance of which is characteristic of an exit wound of a bullet." (Clark Panel Report, pp. 9)

Dr. Wecht, a critic of the Warren Report, concurs with the Clark Panel that the wound in question is one of exit:

"Based upon the evidence and correlating it with the wound in the back, the neck wound would seem to be one of exit." (Citizen's Quarterly, Winter Edition)

## The "Back" Wound Is Actually in the Lower Neck

2. The "back" wound is actually in the lower neck. The Clark Panel locates the wound "approximately 5.5 cm. below a transverse fold in the skin of the neck." Dr. Wecht notes that "photographs of the President's back wound indicate that its center is located about 4.5 cm. to the right of the midline of the spine and about 6 cm. below the lowest crease in the back of the neck."

## Evidence of a "Track"

3. There is evidence of a "track" that would connect the anterior neck wound to the posterior back wound.

"There is a track between the two cutaneous wounds as indicated by subcutaneous emphysema and small metallic fragments on the X-rays and the contusion of the apex of the right lung and laceration of the trachea described in the Autopsy report." (Clark Panel Report, pp. 15)

Dr. Wecht does not offer any disagreement in regard to this track and backs it by saying:

"X-rays of this region (back wound) disclose densities at the right lateral margin of the sixth and seventh cervical vertebrae."

## Available Evidence Supports Forman's Hypothesis

Thus the following conclusions can be made regarding the anterior neck wound and the posterior back wound.

1. The back/throat wound is a through-and-through wound.
2. There is no evidence in the autopsy materials to support Cutler's hypothesis.
3. A path is visible on the autopsy materials.

Forman's hypothesis as presented in the March issue is in complete accord with the available evidence. It should be noted that Dr. Cyril Wecht also believes that the bullet which hit Kennedy in the lower neck exited over the left side of the presidential limousine.

## Cutler's Arguments Flawed

Cutler presents three arguments in his letter to the editor. Each of these arguments is flawed and contrary to available evidence.

1. The anterior neck wound was below the clothing line. (please turn to page 7)

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4. the Secret Service, and
5. the CIA.

Both before and after the murder, this cabal had control high enough in the councils of government so as to be able to influence the travel plans of:

1. the president,
2. the vice president,
3. a presidential candidate, Richard M. Nixon, and
4. seven members of the Kennedy cabinet.

Together these constitute a most important fact. Many would have us believe that, if there was a conspiracy, it was masterminded by Castro, or by the Russians, or by some other Communist power. Such a thesis is sheer idiocy. Putting forward such a thesis is most likely the work of the prime conspiracy itself to obfuscate and to further disguise its complicity. Castro, Khrushchev, or any other outsider would have been utterly unable to arrange all the inside activities that were arranged beforehand — such as send six members of the Cabinet out to fly over the empty waters of the Pacific.

This cabal was powerful enough:

1. to have orders issued to the Army,
2. to stop the Secret Service from protecting Kennedy in Dallas in the normal, rule-book way,
3. to mount a massive campaign to control the media during and after the assassination,
4. to have Jack Ruby kill Oswald, and
5. to transfer jurisdiction, unlawfully, over Kennedy's murder from Texas to Washington, D. C., and
6. to effectively control the outcome of the Warren Commission review by controlling what the Warren Commission individuals saw and heard.

#### **19. Over 50 Strange Deaths of Witnesses**

And consider the rest of the coverup. As soon as JFK was dead, they began an even larger campaign to cover up that crime forever. Penn Jones, the tenacious editor of the Midlothian, Texas Mirror, has devoted his life since 1963 to "researching the hell out of" this conspiracy. He has a list of some eighty-five people who, because they knew too much or came too close, have died sudden and unnatural deaths since the JFK murder. It can be said that because Texas has not stepped forward to perform its legal responsibilities the lives of many innocent people have been and continue to be in jeopardy from the same hired guns which slew the President in a Dallas street.

This great cabal saw to it that Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was in the Kennedy procession. They saw to it that he heard those hired guns, that he saw Kennedy die, and that he had to live through that nightmare of the trip back to Washington on Air Force One. From that day on, LBJ never again was

that self-confident, swashbuckling, free-wheeling Texan of his Senate days. Before he died, LBJ told his old friend Tom Janos that he knew Oswald had not killed JFK by himself.

Now think that statement over! The President of the United States had known that a conspiracy existed; he knew the Warren Commission which he established was wrong in its verdict; and he had been unable to do a thing about it. Perhaps he told Janos because he dared not die with that secret on his soul!

#### **20. Time to Tear Off the Cover**

The American public is now ready to have the cloak torn off from the lies about the Kennedy murder and the coverup which has grown to an even greater crime.

But the American public so far has not shown the guts to face the fact of the massive conspiracy that arranged and bought that murder and which to this day perpetuates the coverup of the murder. □

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Dr. Malcom Perry testified that "in the part of the neck below the Adam's apple was a small, roughly circular wound of perhaps 5 mm. in diameter from which blood was exuding slowly." (3H368)

Dr. Kemp Clark noted in his report "two external wounds, one in the lower third of the anterior neck." (R483)

Dr. Carrico testified before the Warren Commission that "there was a small wound 5- to 8-mm. in size, located in the lower third of the neck, below the thyroid cartilage, the Adams apple."

When asked by Mr. Dulles to show where the wound was, he answered, "Just about where your tie would be."

Thus the Dallas doctors positioned the wound below the clothing line, and Dr. Carrico notes in Weisberg's book that it was "unlikely" that the slits in the President's shirt were made by the nurses. ?

#### **Evidence of the Zapruder Film**

2. People who study the Zapruder film are only able to pinpoint the fatal head shot at Z303. Cutler does not explain where the "two" bullets which entered Kennedy's neck are. He implies that they drifted to Kennedy's lower body below the knees as the rest of the body was covered by X-rays. This seems to be sheer speculation at best. It is highly doubtful that both bullets would turn up in a place too far from the original wounds.

It is clear that when all the evidence is considered, the back/throat wound of Kennedy is a through-and-through wound. Once this is admitted, Forman's hypothesis becomes the only working, rational explanation of the first shot which hit Kennedy. □

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with. But these details will be inconsequential if Morrow's overall account does not hold up under the scrutiny that it will likely receive. Meanwhile, Morrow is consulting with some congressional aides in hope of sparking some action in the presently immobilized House of Representatives. □